

Reminiscences of Early Presbyterianism in Upper South Carolina and Richland Church.

By John W. Shelor.—Part Three.

On June 25, 1882, the following members were dismissed to enter into the organization of the Westminster church: Elder H. R. Gaston, Mrs. Mary J. Gaston, Misses M. A. and H. M. Gaston, W. S. Gaston, J. L. Hudgens, Mrs. L. E. Hudgens, D. S. Hull, Mrs. R. C. Hull, Miss Susan Steele, Miss Scott Steele, Miss L. Alice Steele and Mrs. Laura Zimmerman. (This is the third colony this mother church has sent out). The Presbytery of South Carolina met with this church for the first time in September of this year.

An Old Landmark.

Let us now turn our attention for a few moments to one of the old landmarks of Presbyterianism in Oconee county, Rev. Wm. McWhorter, who died in his 73d year at his residence near Retreat church on February 9, 1884. He was born near Bethel church in 1811, was baptized in that church in infancy and trained by pious and zealous parents, and when about 16 years of age formally united with the church and determined to enter the ministry. In order to complete his education he rode on horseback to Philadelphia, Pa., to enter college there. Failing health compelled him to return to the more genial climate of his home-land, and he completed his education in the University of Georgia. He did not attend the seminary, it appears, but studied theology under Rev. Wm. H. Barr, D. D., of Abbeville, S. C. He was received into the South Carolina Presbytery in 1836 and licensed to preach by that body in 1837, at Greenville church, Abbeville county. He preached his first sermon after licensure at Bethel church (the place of his birth) in 1837. Therefore he was the first Presbyterian minister that was born and raised in Old Pickens District. He was ever faithful, and presented the truths of the Gospel with force and power. He was very eloquent; his oratorical powers excellent. He was sociable in his nature, very fond of children, instructive and entertaining in the home; a good citizen, kind neighbor; a model husband, a kind and indulgent father, and squared his daily conduct by his religious convictions of truth and righteousness. When he saw that his days were numbered and that God would soon call him home he quietly laid down his armor, put his house in order, wrapped his mantle about him, folded his arms as in sleep, and now awaits "the resurrection of the just made perfect in righteousness."

We see no evidence of any supply from this date until June 8, 1884, when Rev. J. McL. Seabrook began his labors with us. On September 14, 1884, Elder M. B. Dendy resigned the clerkship and Elder J. B. Pickett was elected to succeed him. In April, 1888, Mr. Seabrook declined to serve, and this left the church vacant until February, 1889, when Rev. I. P. Marion began to minister to us. He continued until April, 1890.

Elder Thos. J. Hall departed this life on April 20, 1889, and Elder M. S. Strickland passed to his reward on May 3, 1890.

Rev. G. L. Cook supplied the church for a few months in the fall of the year, and on February 1st, 1891, Rev. T. C. Ligon entered upon the service of the church.

On the 15th of March Elder O. M. Doyle, M. D., was received from Seneca church by letter and installed as an elder of this church. (No evidence of his election is recorded.) At the same time Wm. H. Hughs was ordained and installed as elder, and J. J. Ballenger, J. P. Strickling and W. H. Barron as deacons. On the 7th of June the session resolved to hold monthly meetings with elders and deacons. Elder J. B. Pickett resigned his clerkship and Elder W. H. Hughs was elected in his stead on July 5, 1891.

On September 6 Rev. T. C. Ligon was called to the full pastorate of the church, and was regularly installed on the third Sabbath in September. Rev. J. S. Cozby, D. D., preached the sermon and charged the pastor, and Rev. R. C. Ligon charged the congregation. This pastorate continued till April 15, 1895, when it was formally dissolved. In July of the same year Rev. G. G. Mayes was secured as stated supply. On October 6, 1897, Dr. O. M. Doyle (elder) was suddenly called from his earthly labors. The services of Mr. Mayes were terminated at the spring meeting of Presbytery, 1897.

Rev. R. L. Rogers began to serve the church soon thereafter. On January 15, 1899, a congregational meeting was called to elect two elders and two deacons, and (owing, I suppose, to the enforced absence of

the regular clerk of session,) no evidence of the election was noted, but on April 2, 1899, J. J. Ballenger and J. P. Strickling were ordained and installed as elders and J. D. McMahan and J. E. Pickett were ordained and installed as deacons.

On April 8, 1899, Deacon T. H. Dendy departed this life. J. P. Strickling was elected to serve as clerk of session during the absence of the regular clerk.

The New Century.

We now enter a new century, and in order to compare the progress our church has made since the first sessional report, recorded in 1879, to this date, April 8, 1900, we append the annual report sent up to Presbytery: Elders 6, deacons 3; communicants added during the year 2; total communicants 98; adult baptisms 3, infants 2. Baptized non-communicants not reported, but in 1895 were reported 50. Officers and teachers in Sunday school 7, students 60. Financial: Foreign missions \$21.05; Assembly home missions \$1.13; local home missions \$5.58; colored evangelistic fund \$1.49; relief \$2.25; educational \$7; publication \$1.52; Presbyterial \$18.50; pastor's salary \$178; miscellaneous \$11. Total, \$258.65. Nothing marred the progress of the church in 1901-02, Mr. Rogers still faithfully pleading with and for his people. On July 19, 1905, Rev. Robert Lee Rogers "exchanged the cross for the crown" at 10 o'clock a. m., in the manse at Walhalla, in the 36th year of his life. He had been ordained and installed about eight years before that date by the Presbytery of South Carolina as pastor of Walhalla church and later over Richland church for one-half of his time. In the memorial service in Presbytery, by Rev. J. G. Law, he says:

"Our brother was abundant in labors and made full proof of his ministry. He was a safe, sound, conservative, instructive, evangelistic preacher of the Word. He was fruitful in the salvation of souls. More than 120 souls were added to the churches of his charge, besides others that were gathered into the Kingdom during the protracted meetings, where he freely and cheerfully gave his services. He was loyal to the principles of the Presbyterian church and enjoyed the esteem, love and confidence of his brethren. He was a high-toned Christian gentleman, and his beautiful life was a benediction to the community."

The funeral service was conducted in the Presbyterian church at Walhalla by Rev. J. G. Law, assisted by Revs. M. R. Kirkpatrick, W. F. Strickland and J. J. Harrell, of the Presbyterian church; Revs. E. S. Jones, C. D. Mann and W. M. Hardin, of the M. E. Church, South, and Rev. H. C. Grossman, of the Lutheran church, from the text, "And when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." (1 Peter 5:4).

There was an interval of about one year without any regular supply, but on the 23d of September, 1906, a congregational meeting, previously announced, elected Rev. L. W. Brown. The proper arrangements were made to sign the call and it was placed in his hands. While there is no record of his acceptance or his installation by Presbytery, we find him, on October 6, 1906, at work with the session and church.

On February 10, 1908, a congregational meeting was ordered for the purpose of electing two new deacons, and on that day R. W. Davis and G. W. Ballenger were duly elected, but I am unable to find the date of their ordination and installation. In the year 1896 there was organized a ladies' aid society, but I see no other reference thereto after organization. In the spring of 1908, during Mr. Brown's ministry, a woman's missionary and aid society was formed with 20 members and are at this time actively at work. On June 7, 1908, a congregational meeting was held to receive the resignation of Mr. Brown and a commissioner was appointed and instructed to concur with him in requesting Presbytery to dissolve the pastoral relation, which was accordingly done. The church was vacant, with occasional services, until April 11, 1909, when Rev. G. M. Wilcox was duly elected pastor for one-half of his time. A regular call was sent up to Presbytery, and on June 20, 1909, Rev. Mr. Wilcox was duly installed pastor. There were present Rev. John G. Law, Rev. M. E. Peabody and M. S. Strickling. (Order of exercises not stated). Deacon J. E. Pickett was dismissed to Seneca in January, 1909.

Piedmont Presbytery.

The organization of Piedmont Presbytery occurs as follows:

"Pursuant to the following order of the Synod of South Carolina, taken in session at Charleston, S. C., October 22, 1909, the Synod approves the action of the South Carolina Presbytery in the matter of division of that Presbytery, and that Synod order the setting apart of the congregations and ministers of South Carolina Presbytery located in Oconee, Pickens and Anderson counties of South Carolina as a separate Presbytery of the Synod of South Carolina. That the Synod orders the ministers now living in Oconee, Pickens and Anderson, members of South Carolina Presbytery, and the elders appointed by the Presbyterian congregations in the same counties to meet in the Presbyterian church at Seneca, S. C., on the 9th of November, 1909, at 7:30 p. m., and the Rev. John G. Law, D. D., be appointed to preach a sermon, and, acting as moderator at the same time and place, to organize a new Presbytery. Henry Alexander White, Chairman."

The following ministers and elders from the different churches were present:

Rev. W. S. Hamiter, Rev. John G. Law, D. D., Rev. T. C. Ligon, Rev. M. R. Kirkpatrick, Rev. W. H. Mills, Rev. J. C. Bailey, Jr., Rev. David Lander, Rev. Bunyan McLeod, Rev. I. E. Wallace, Rev. A. E. Atkins, Rev. M. E. Peabody, Rev. G. M. Wilcox

Elders—M. L. Reid, Good Hope; G. M. Green, Honea Path; J. T. Reid, Fairview; R. R. Millam, Mount Zion; E. A. Hines, Seneca; R. E. Thompson, Flat Rock; W. T. Harrison, Anderson (First); G. N. C. Boleman, Anderson (Central); Hale Houston, Fort Hill; W. A. Boggs, Liberty S. D. Steward, Carmel; J. S. McCall, Central; J. E. Hagood, Easley; Wm. McMahan, Mount Pleasant; John D. Bonner, Pelzer; C. J. Boggs, Pendleton; W. P. Anderson, Westminster;

H. E. Thompson, Fair Play; John W. Shelor, Retreat; W. L. Verner, Walhalla; M. B. Dendy, Richland; T. M. Kelley, Bethel.

The 12 ministers and 22 elders above named met in conformity with the order of Synod. Rev. John G. Law, D. D., preached the sermon, and the Presbytery was constituted by prayer by Dr. Law. He was elected moderator and Rev. B. McLeod temporary clerk. The Presbytery was named "Piedmont," and Rev. Wm. H. Mills was chosen as stated clerk. Thus the Presbytery began under the most favorable conditions.

On January 8, 1910, Deacon M. T. Hughs was, at his own request, dismissed to Walhalla church.

On the 18th of March, 1910, the session adopted the "budget plan" for collecting and distributing the finances and decided to elect two additional deacons. On April 3d E. C. DuBose and W. D. Wright were elected, ordained and installed as such on May 1st, 1910.

We note the presence at different times of Revs. M. R. Kirkpatrick, J. J. Harrell, M. E. Peabody and H. A. Knox, all of whom we were delighted to have with us.

On March 3, 1911, Rev. G. M. Wilcox gave notice of accepting the full charge of Walhalla church, and this being concurred in, necessitated Richland church seeking other connections.

On the 3d of March Elder J. J. Davis departed this life, and on the 21st of April Marshall B. Dendy was called to his reward. Two other elders had fulfilled their allotted tasks and were called to higher service.

Dr. John G. Law supplied the church from June 4, 1911, until April 12, 1912.

On December 2, 1911, Deacon E. C. DuBose fell on sleep in Jesus.

Mr. F. D. Vaughn was secured and received into this Presbytery on the 16th of May, 1912, and after some delay he was ordained to the full

ministry and installed as pastor of this church by Rev. M. R. Kirkpatrick, Rev. R. L. Greer and Elder John Todd.

On November 30, 1911, Elder J. B. Pickett passed suddenly from death unto everlasting life.

On December 15, 1912, a congregational meeting was called to meet on the third Sabbath in January, 1913, to elect three elders and two or more deacons. On January 19, Deacons J. D. McMahan, R. M. Davis and Elder John W. Shelor were elected elders, and J. R. Wright, Lowell Smith, Charles DuBose and Deacon D. Ryland Shelor as deacons, and were duly ordained and installed, except that Elder Shelor and Deacon D. R. Shelor were only installed.

On April 6, 1913, a congregational meeting was called for the purpose of uniting with Pastor Vaughn in asking Presbytery to dissolve the pastoral relations between himself and the church, the church agreeing thereto. Presbytery consented to the dissolution. Immediate steps were taken to secure another pastor. Arrangements were made with Seneca church to unite and call a pastor, and on the 25th of May, 1913, all requirements being complied with, a unanimous call was made for the services of Rev. I. E. Wallace for one-half of his time, Seneca taking the other half. The call having been placed in his hands and accepted, he was duly installed pastor of this church on the 26th day of June. Rev. G. M. Wilcox preached the sermon and Rev. J. G. Law, D. D., charged the pastor and Elder J. E. Boggs charged the people.

On the 26th of July the Sabbath school decided to undertake (the session concurring) the support of one orphan in the Thornwell Orphanage. The cost of maintenance amounts to \$60 per year. Elder J. J. Ballenger generously proposed to give one-half of the amount and the Sunday school the other half, which arrangement is being carried out each month.

Dr. John G. Law.

We cannot close this sketch without reference to Rev. John G. Law, D. D., who has ever been zealous for our interests, assisting in communion and protracted services, in one of which he received ten precious souls into the church. Always ready to serve God and his fellow-man in any and every capacity, he has given comfort to the sorrowful, and joy and peace to the bereaved. He has at all times, when we have been without a pastor, given us freely and cheerfully of his services. He has never closed a sermon without an invitation to come to Jesus. May he be spared yet many years of usefulness to us.

This brings us up to the 1st of July, 1914. Allow me to sum up the results of our labors.

We have sent out from the church six candidates for the ministry, all of whom are now actively engaged in the full work of the ministry except one—Jesse W. Strickling—who died in preparation for the work. The five are Revs. Jos. T. Dendy, Bruce Doyle and T. McKnight Strickling, of the Presbyterian church; Hollis Alexander Whitten, of the M. E. Church, South, and J. Plummer Dendy, of the Baptist church. There are many others who have moved into new fields and become elders and deacons in the church, and there is an innumerable host of teachers, male and female, who have left their impress upon their pupils.

We have now in active work Rev. I. E. Wallace as pastor. We have six elders, namely, Wm. H. Hughs, J. J. Ballenger, J. P. Strickling, J. D. McMahan, R. M. Davis and John W. Shelor, and six deacons—J. R. Wright, Duncan Wright, G. W. Ballenger, Lowell Smith, Charles DuBose and D. Ryland Shelor. The trustees of the church property are the elders and their successors in office. Members 114; clerk of session, Wm. H. Hughs; officers and teachers of Sunday school 7; Wm. H. Hughs, superintendent; James R. Wright, assistant superintendent; pupils on roll, 127; cradle roll, 15. Ladies' Missionary and Aid Society, Mrs. S. N. Hughs, president; Miss Carrie Smith, secretary and treasurer. Respectfully,

John W. Shelor.

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Sincerely,
(Miss) Nannie Dickson.

GOVERNMENT LOSES ITS SUIT.

Great Steel Corporation Declared Now to Be Legal Aggregation.

Trenton, N. J., June 3.—The United States District Court for New Jersey to-day handed down a unanimous decision refusing the petition of the Federal government to dissolve the United States Steel corporation.

As against the government the court refused to dissolve the corporation, holding that in acquiring its foreign and home trade the concern did not violate the Sherman anti-trust act, and refused all the injunctions prayed for by the Department of Justice.

As against the steel corporation the court held that the committee meetings participated in by 95 per cent of the steel trade of the country, including the steel corporation, subsequent to the famous Gary dinners of eight or nine years ago, were unlawful combinations to control prices, but as these meetings had stopped before the government filed its complaint in October, 1911, the judges held that there was no occasion for an injunction.

The opinion of the court suggests that such practices lie within the province of the new Federal trade commission, but adds that if their repetition is apprehended the court will, on motion of the government, retain jurisdiction of the cases for that particular purpose.

Will Go to Supreme Court.

Washington, June 3.—Distinct surprise was evident at the Department of Justice and in government circles generally to-day, when news came that the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals at Trenton had dismissed the government's suit for dissolution of the United States Steel Corporation.

Attorney General Gregory declined to make a statement as to the next move of the government. It was generally believed, however, that an effort would be made to carry the suit, regarded as probably the most important ever brought under the Sherman law, to the Supreme Court.

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Chicago Woman Arrested in Italy.

Milan, Italy, June 2.—Isabelle Wade, of Chicago, was arrested here to-day charged with being an accomplice of a Bavarian officer who is accused of espionage. The police searched the woman's apartment, finding a large package of correspondence in cipher and military maps of important strategic value in a number of Italian provinces.

From another package German correspondence was taken, which it was alleged showed dealings with the Berlin police.

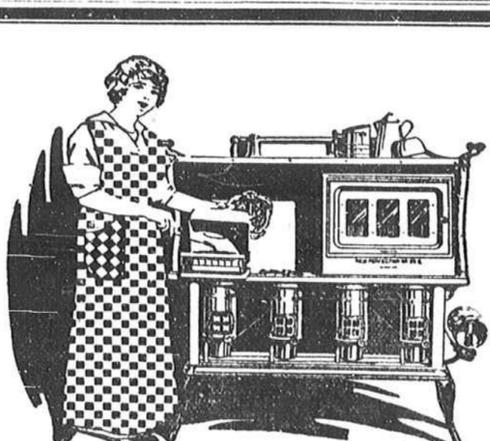
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